

Welcome by the Minister of International Trade

With a strong, stable and dynamic economy, world-class infrastructure and leading-edge research and development capabilities, Canada is attracting the attention of global businesses and investors alike.

To build on these advantages, Canada has created a business environment that supports company growth, by lowering taxes and reducing public debt. By 2012, Canada is expected to have the lowest statutory general corporate income tax rate in the G7—at 25 percent.

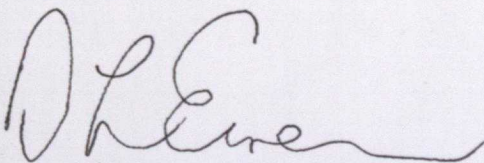
The Economist Intelligence Unit forecasts that over the next five years, Canada's business environment will rank first among the G7 countries.

Canada's position as a trading nation, with commercial links around the world, is another key advantage. With unparalleled access to the United States and Mexico—through the North American Free Trade Agreement—Canada saw over US\$712 billion in two-way trade with the United States alone in 2007.

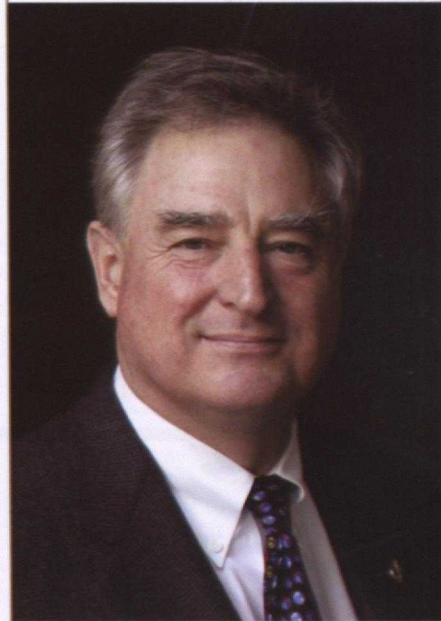
A commitment to innovation is another dimension of Canada's success. For example, through a generous Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) program, Canadian businesses and foreign-owned affiliates in Canada are encouraged to conduct leading-edge research and development (R&D), resulting in new, improved and technologically advanced products and processes. The SR&ED program is widely recognized as one of the most flexible and market-oriented R&D tax incentive programs in the G7.

To support and nourish these advantages, Canada has developed a global network of investment and trade professionals located in our offices around the world to continue making connections between Canada and opportunities worldwide.

I invite you to read this document and find out for yourself why Canada is fast-becoming one of the world's best business and investment destinations.



The Honourable David Emerson
Minister of International Trade
Minister for the Pacific Gateway and Vancouver-Whistler Olympics



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